

Australian
FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

Number 1

AUSTRALIAN FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

No. 1. (March) 1970

Australian Flying Saucer Review is a non-profit educational publication produced by the Victorian U. F. O. Research Society, P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Victoria. The function of the society is to collate and disseminate information about the subject of Flying Saucers or Unidentified Flying Objects. (U.F.O.'s)

V.U.F.O.R.S. OFFICE BEARERS

PETER E. NORRIS, LL.B

JUDITH M. MAGEE

JUNE HARRISON

ALBERT WILKINSON

BILL STAPLETON

PAUL NORMAN

KIT. FRANCESWILLIAMS

LES BRISTOL

President

Vice President

Assistant Secretary

Treasurer

Sightings Investigations Officer

Public Relations Officer

Minutes Secretary

Librarian

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

V.U.F.O.R.S.

Full Membership — (\$4.20) per annum which includes free issue of magazine.

**Pensioners and Juniors — (\$2.10) per annum
which includes free issue of magazine.**

Overseas Membership — \$(2.50) U.S.A.

Single copy of magazine (25c) Aust. plus
5c. postage.

The review welcomes articles for publication, letters and news clippings, in addition to sighting reports. Address all communications to:—

V.U.F.O.R.S., P.O., Box 43, Moorabbin,
Victoria.

Material appearing in this publication may be reproduced with appropriate credits.

Contributions published do not necessarily reflect the policy of the V.U.F.O.R.S.

contents

Editorial.	1
The Condon Report - in bits and pieces.	2
A dissenting view of the Condon Report.	4
UFO Investigation.	5
Pilots watch as UFOs manoeuvre.	7
Are the Ufonauts gradually revealing their presence?	8
Press Cuttings.	10-11
The Spackman Sighting.	13
Book Review (UFOs over the Americas).	15
Letter to the Editor.	20

EDITORIAL

This issue of the Australian Flying Saucer Review ushers in a new year and introduces a new format in which the magazine will henceforth be produced.

Rising printing costs now make it impracticable to produce the magazine commercially so that the Society has been obliged to purchase its own machine and 'The Review' will, in future, be almost entirely 'home-made'.

The format will be the only change, however, and the Editors will continue to present UFO news and opinion from around the world with the same objectivity which has won respect for our publication in every nation where UFOs are investigated and talked about.

It is noteworthy, too, that this issue comes from our press at a time when detrimental attacks have been made on UFO research; calculated,

apparently, to harm its standing in the eyes of the scientific community as a subject worthy of continued investigation.

Edward Condon's negative summary to the Colorado Project Report has been followed by an announcement that the United States Air Force has disbanded Project Blue Book and intends to cease investigation of UFO reports. On the other hand, the unflagging interest in UFOs among a few scientists of international reputation indicates that Ufology is not, as yet, quite ready to be buried.

A symposium on UFOs, sponsored during Christmas by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and attended by a number of scientists, attracted considerable public interest despite last-minute attempts in some quarters to have the symposium cancelled.

Exactly what this new year of a new decade will bring forth is hard to predict. As a leading UFO investigator recently revealed, this is probably up to the UFOs themselves: ★

THE CONDON REPORT - IN BITS AND PIECES

Comments by Paul Norman

The Condon Report, entitled "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects", sets a new precedent in report writing by beginning with the conclusions and recommendations. (Bantam Books \$US 1.95 Paperback).

The entire report is a symbol of the Low-Condon mind, already made up before the first case was investigated, and documents the reason why Dr. Edward U. Condon and Robert Low were selected to head the greatest attempt at public deception in the history of Ufology.

The above statement does not necessarily imply that Dr. Condon was aware of this sham act of public relations. In fact, he was not even aware of the increasing alarm and disgust among the scientists serving on the project until his Committee came to a state of near mutiny over its participation in tricking the general public.

The Condon Report has not deceived millions of people around the world, including a number of scientists who are following global UFO developments with an active interest. The report has deceived a large number of the scientific community who, now as in the past, resist without success each and every step forward in the attainment of knowledge.

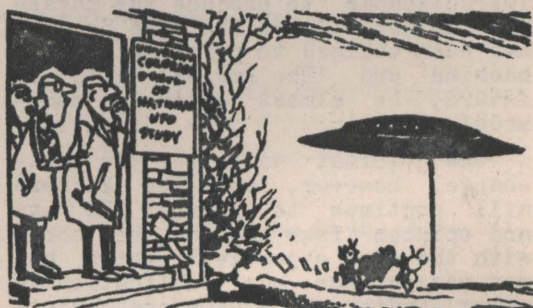
The latest Gallup Poll reveals that, of those people questioned, 39 per cent accepted the reality of UFOs whilst 22 per cent refused to express an opinion. We know from experience that most people who do accept the reality of UFOs are quite reluctant to speak about the subject so, therefore, we can safely say that over 50 per cent of the people are convinced that UFOs are real. This is an increase since the Condon Report was released.

To make a long story short, we'll come to grips with the 1,000 page report, beginning with the famous BOAC case of 30th June, 1954:-

On that date Captain James Howard who was in command of a Boeing Stratocruiser was flying fifty-one passengers from New York to London.

Just prior to landing at Goose Bay in Labrador for refuelling, those on board observed one large and six small UFOs. When the Air Base was notified of this strange traffic, an F-94 fighter was vectored to the vicinity. As the F-94 drew near, the six small objects sped back to and seemed to enter the large UFO which flew away at high speed. The crew and passengers were interviewed by USAF Intelligence at Goose Bay and, after landing in London, Captain Howard stated that the UFOs were obviously not aircraft as we know them. He added that there was no doubt in his mind that they were some sort of aircraft from another world.

The Condon Report, on page 139, at first attempts to treat this well-known case as a mirage but, since small mirages do not manoeuvre back and forth from a large mirage or speed away at the approach of a fighter plane, the attempted explanation was dropped in favour of a conclusion that "this unusual sighting should therefore be assigned to the category of some almost certainly natural phenomenon, which is so rare that it apparently has never been reported before or since".



"Stay calm Dr. Condon - just tell them you don't believe in them!"

Oliphant, Denver Press.

Thus the Condon Report dismisses this example of the encounters which have been occurring in various parts of the world. The conclusion, or comment, offered is only one of the many documented false statements to be found in abundance throughout the entire report.

The BOAC case was not so rare that other similar cases could not be brought to the attention of the Committee. Three similar Australian cases were presented personally by the writer of this article. The incidents were not only discussed with the Committee but photostat copies of the case histories were made by the Colorado Project staff. At least two of the three cases presented are known to be in the official RAAF files. There are, also in existence, letters which state that officials keep in touch, regarding the UFO subject, with friendly governments including the United States. These statements are confirmed by the use of identical phraseology and debunking methods employed by these governments.

An excellent example of the other cases, mentioned above as being of similar type to the BOAC case, is the sighting by Reverend Browning in Cressy, Tasmania on October 4th, 1960. This report was thoroughly investigated by the RAAF and draws attention to the manner in which Officialdom goes about humbugging the public. Since most readers are familiar with this case, perhaps the evaluation of the incident by Professor James E. McDonald will be of interest. Dr. McDonald is one of the top atmospheric scientists in the United States. He presented a paper, "UFOs: An International Scientific Problem", to the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute Astronautics Symposium, in Montreal Canada on 12th March, 1968. The following comments are taken from his paper:-

"A half-dozen years after Case 1, (the BOAC case) and halfway around the globe, a well-documented sighting bearing a certain resemblance to it (a number of small objects around a large one) was made by two reliable witnesses. The Reverend Lionel B. Browning, an Anglican clergyman was admiring a rainbow as he and his wife looked out a window of their Cressy, Tasmania, Rectory.

It was 6.10 p.m., the sun was just setting in the west. A curtain of rain concealed Ben Lomond ridge off to their east and extended through the southeast and to their south. Mrs. Browning suddenly called Rev. Browning's attention to what they both first interpreted as a large aircraft emerging from a rain curtain nearly due east".

"I had an opportunity to interview Rev. Browning last summer and verified the contemporary press accounts. He and Mrs. Browning quickly noted that the cigar-shaped object seemed to lack wings, had several vertical bands or ridges on its gray-colored surface, and some odd protuberance on its forward end. They watched it glide northward for about a minute before it suddenly stopped in mid-air and hovered over the ground at an altitude, they roughly guessed, of 400-500 feet. Then from out of the rainclouds farther east, there came about a half-dozen much smaller objects, of perceptibly discoid form, the Rev. Browning stated. These smaller discs moved much faster than the larger cigar-shaped object. At speeds which, the Rev. Browning stated to me, might have approached jet air-craft speed".

"The Brownings next saw the discs seem to take up a formation around the cigar-shaped object, which had been hovering motionless during the approach and formation of the smaller objects. Then the entire assemblage started moving towards the south, back into the rainshower out of which the large object had first been seen emerging, whence the group was lost from sight".

"The Brownings, after a brief discussion of this event (which by then they construed as 'some Russian devices'), called the nearby air-drome to report it, which ultimately brought it to the attention of the RAAF".

"My questions as to the ultimate public explanation which the RAAF put on the sighting elicited somewhat bitter comment from the Rev. Browning. Comment that I later found elaborated in press clippings made available to me by the officers of a very creditable private UFO group in Melbourne (VUFORS)".

Continued Page 19

A DISSENTING VIEW OF THE CONDON REPORT

by James E. McDonald

Institute of Atmospheric Physics
The University of Arizona

SUMMARY - The Condon Report's negative conclusions and recommendations with respect to scientific study of UFOs are now a matter of public record. I dispute those conclusions, challenging and criticizing them on the following principal grounds:-

1) The Report analyses only about ninety cases, a tiny fraction of the significant and scientifically puzzling UFO reports now on record.

2) It omits consideration of some of the most puzzling cases on record, famous cases that persons such as myself specifically urged the Condon Project to study. It even omits discussion of certain significant cases that Project staff actually investigated (e.g., Levell- and and Redlands).

3) Many of those cases which the Report does consider are of such trivially insignificant nature that they should have been ignored on the grounds that they are unrelated to the Project's prime mission, namely, seeking explanations of the kinds of truly baffling cases that have created the Air Force problem that led to establishment of the Colorado UFO Project.

4) Specious argumentation, and argumentation of scientifically very weak nature, abound in the Report's case-analyses. And, while broadly charging bias on the part of those who have taken the UFO problem seriously in the past, the Report exhibits degrees of bias in the opposite direction that deserve the sharpest of criticism.

5) To anyone intimately familiar with relevant report-details, some of the cases considered in the Report exhibit disturbingly incomplete presentation of relevant evidence; in a few instances, such defects seem little short of misrepresentation of case-information. However, I believe that the latter instances bespeak bias, not intent

to deceive.

6) Despite all of the above, those who prepared the Report ended up with about a dozen (i.e., about 15 per cent) of their cases in the 'unexplained' category. Some are extremely significant UFO cases (e.g., Texas B-47 or Lakenheath); yet these Unexplained UFOs appear to have been casually ignored by Condon in recommending that UFOs be considered of no further scientific significance.

7) Irrelevant padding has thickened the Report to a bulk that will discourage many scientists from studying it carefully. Detailed UFO report-analyses should have been the primary content of this Report, yet trivia and irrelevancies, or secondary material, are present in objectionably voluminous proportions.

8) The Report, it must be noted, does exhibit a few bright facets; but these are obscured by its high average defect-density.

9) In all, I believe that the contents of the Condon Report fail dismally to support the strong negative recommendations which Condon has presented in his own summary analysis. The strong endorsement by the National Academy of Sciences will, I believe, prove to be a painful embarrassment to the Academy, for it appears to be the epitome of superficial panel-evaluation by representatives of a scientific body that ought always to warrant the prestige its good name enjoys.

Continued Page 18.

U F O INVESTIGATION

by N.E. Thornhill

The modern enigma of the UFO (Unidentified Flying Objects) has been with us for upwards of twenty-two years. Proof of whether these objects exist, whether they are only a figment of the imagination or whether they are misinterpretation of the known is still left up to the observer.

The majority of the public is not familiar with what goes on behind the scenes regarding investigation of the UFO reports - how we decide if a report could be a hoax or perhaps misinterpretation of some conventional object, e.g. cloud formation, weather balloons, aircraft etc.

Let me elaborate on the above with the following information:-

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION.

A sighting occurs; is reported to the Society; at this point Sighting Report Form "A" is sent out to be filled in by the witness and returned to the Society. (This form is a preliminary one which will indicate the type of sighting made).

From this Form "A" it can be determined whether the sighting warrants further investigation. If it does, then a Sightings Officer will go out to the home of the witness for a personal interview, and will extract as much information verbally as possible. This is done by allowing the witness to fully relate the sighting, after which the Sightings Officer will ask various questions which have been prepared through intensive study of the UFO phenomena.

Approximately one hour will have been fully absorbed at this point and the Sightings Officer will have obtained as much information as he can from the witness. He will have taped the report, filled out the second, and more comprehensive, report form and will have collected sketches and photos if available.

Now the real work will commence, that of evaluating the Sighting Report.

EVALUATION OF A REPORT.

Evaluating a sighting is not the easy task that many may think. It involves the Sightings Officer in many hours of cyphering through the relative information of the report before he is able to produce the

final result.

Evaluation, of course, starts at the interview where a method that I have adopted helps us to find out whether the witness has actually seen something or whether the reported sighting was just a figment of the imagination.

I have developed certain methods which quickly bring out these credibility flaws, for instance, after patiently listening to the account, I will then see that all the facts are straight by repeating highlights of the report whilst making sure that in two or three places I change some of the witness's descriptions (e.g. direction, time or size of the reported object) to see whether they will recognise the error, correct it or just let it pass unnoticed.

One quickly learns to gauge the objectivity of the report. One of the most glaring faults on the part of some witnesses is to substitute interpretation of fact for a fact; thus he may tell me "the space ship was patrolling the neighbourhood and observing us" when, in actual fact, the witness observed a light moving about in the sky.

My experience in interviewing shows that the witness will attempt to fit the anomalous observation into some conventional category (e.g. "I thought it might have been an aeroplane, the blinking lights of a police car or even a flock of birds").

Evaluating the credibility of a witness is, of course, an ever pres-

Continued Page 6.

•

ARE THE UFONAUTS GRADUALLY REVEALING THEIR PRESENCE ?

About three hundred years B.C., the armies of Alexander the Great were dispersed in fear by flying shields. UFOs have been recorded since very early history. Some researchers claim they are described in the Bible. In fact, all through our history the UFOs seem to have been observing us.

In those early days, unless one had been seen to land, people would probably have been inclined to write UFOs off as falling stars. Since the advent of satellites, and with a little more knowledge of the celestial bodies, we are inclined to dismiss UFOs as satellites or as some natural phenomena. This type of evasion, or lack of thought, has done nothing to make man ponder their origin. However, in 1947 events took a turn in the direction of recognition. Kenneth Arnold's report of ten flying discs hit the headlines the world over and the term 'flying saucers' was really with us. Since that time, they have been thought to be, among other things, American or Russian secret weapons - yet both countries have research projects, as do many other countries. We know that the RAAF investigates many UFO reports but does not make its findings public. If these objects are nothing more than swamp gas, the planet Venus, balloons or reflections from birds why do governments bother spending thousands of dollars on research?

Perhaps the Ufonauts are trying to make us think for ourselves and, since we rarely notice a light in the sky unless it does something our conventional objects cannot do, they make their appearances a little more spectacular by landing in fields, by leaving burned circles in the grass (so that a geiger counter will sometimes note the presence of radioactivity), by hovering over launch pads and by pacing our cars and 'planes - - and, at last, we wonder!

Where do they come from? Why are they here?

We invent 'fire crackers', and put enormous fires under them to release them from Earth's gravitational pull, in order to investigate the Moon and the nearer planets to see if from these could possibly come the life that appears to be invading our atmosphere.

Surely there must be an easier way of leaving Mother Earth! It is obvious that some aviation engineering companies are trying to emulate the UFO. The shape of some of their attempts indicates this. The hovercraft, for example, is an extremely poor attempt and probably rather useless since a helicopter can achieve the same results and fly higher.

Are these objects intelligently controlled?

Their manoeuvres tend to make us believe that they are. They have been seen as a single unit, then to divide or eject smaller objects which apparently fly by their own power or are perhaps remotely controlled, then to return to the 'parent ship'.

What means of propulsion do they utilise?

What system of propulsion could cause the electro-magnetic effects noted during the presence of a UFO? When a UFO was seen and photographed at the South Pole, the geomagnetic instruments at three bases malfunctioned. Scientists stated that whenever an object entered the earth's magnetic field anywhere in the world, it recorded on their instruments. When a UFO flew over an air base in the Azores and an airfield in Lisbon, electric clocks

stopped. The great North Western blackout in the United States in 1967 was attributed to UFO activity as at least twenty-seven UFOs were observed over high tension wires just prior to the blackout.

CAR PACING.

Although many cars', tractors' and even 'planes' engines have come to a halt in the presence of a UFO, it would seem that the field - if that is what causes this effect - could be variable, because there have been reports of cars being followed very closely by these alien machines yet not experiencing this effect. Such was the case with the two 'car-pacing' incidents described below:-

Case 1.

A motel proprietor of Paynesville in Victoria was driving on the road between Stratford and Sale, travelling towards Sale, in south-eastern Victoria. He was driving a large American car and, as is his usual custom, at a fast speed, on this occasion at about 85 mph. His wife was asleep on the back seat, quite accustomed to the speed.

Just out of Stratford, he noticed what appeared to be a rather large star. In a flash the 'star' was above his car. Looking out the car windows, he could see the object which he said was enormous and probably about 100 feet above him. It would have had to be that high in the air to miss the trees along the side of the road. On approaching a farm or a township, the object would become very bright, then disappear in a flash to reappear far away over the fields like a star. Once past the farm or township, it would return to its position above the car.

The witness did not wake his wife as he was too intent on trying to 'lose' the object by pushing his car to its maximum speed - somewhere in the region of 130 mph. When he arrived at the outskirts of Sale, he called on his father-in-law who came out and watched as the object flew away into the distance.

The distance travelled on this occasion was thirty miles in fifteen minutes. The proprietor has tried, a number of times since, to equal or better his time schedule of that night - but without success! I make

this point because there have been a number of reports where people state (as did the young men near Wagga in N.S.W.) that they felt compelled to follow the object and/or their cars seemed to have been dragged along by whatever force these objects use. Another case was noted in the last issue, no.8., of our magazine.

Case 2.

On 8th July, 1969, an ex-nurse now living near Mortlake in Victoria was returning from a visit to her mother - a journey of about fifteen miles.

The road from her mother's home is off the main highway between Mortlake and Warrnambool, in south-western Victoria. The terrain is very open, there are only a few farm houses and from this road there is an excellent view of the countryside for many miles around. It was about 7.30 p.m. when she noticed the red and green lights high in the sky. She thought it could have been the lights of the Ansett 'plane. Then the object dropped rapidly, on her left, to a height of about fifty feet. By now she could see some shape; there seemed to be red domed lights, a metal dome in the middle and a green flashing light at the rear. The object then crossed the road in front of the car and took up a position about fifty yards away on her right and proceeded to pace her car, for three to four miles.

At the time the object arrived she had been travelling at about 45 mph but as she progressed and became aware of the object, taking note of shape and lights, fear began to take control and the car soon reached a speed of 80 mph. The witness stated that the object kept pace with her car. It changed direction rapidly, responding quickly to her changes of direction and any increase of speed.

The witness stated that the object had lights fore and aft and from the tail there flashed a green beam which seemed to be directed at her. This caused her considerable distress. She said her head was throbbing and her chest felt distended.

On reaching the end of the lane,
and after turning onto the highway,
Continued Page 14.

Cars halted by "force"

LONDON, Sat. — The British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association will receive a report from Dorset about a mysterious force said to have stopped three cars in their tracks on a quiet country road.

The report is being prepared by Mr. Frank Marshall, the Association's representative at Portland, following interviews he has had with Mr. Paul Redshaw, 21, and Mr. Ernest Goldsworthy, 26.

Mr. Redshaw said this week: "I was driving along the old Roman road from Askerwell to Beaminster at dusk on Sunday when the engine failed, the lights went out, clocks and

watches stopped and I came over dizzy.

"Two other vehicles on the same stretch of road were similarly affected but, after 30 minutes, everything returned to normal and, after we had all compared notes, we continued our journeys."

Mr. Goldsworthy, who was in Mr. Redshaw's car, said: "The experience shattered us. We saw and heard nothing."

"TRUTH" Brisbane, Q. 15/9/68

Young men speed as 'flying saucer' dives over them

ADELAIDE. — A young Port Victoria motor mechanic yesterday described how he had driven at 95 mph after an unidentified flying object had "dive-bombed" him between Maitland and Port Victoria approx 100 miles from Adelaide.

He said he and another youth with him were "scared stiff" and had reported the sighting to a Port Victoria policeman, who had later watched it with them.

The man, Mr J. A. Wyatt, a 21-year-old motor mechanic, said he was returning home from Maitland, where he works, at about 9.40 pm on Tuesday, with a friend, Christopher Bolton (15), who boarded with his family.

On leaving Maitland they had noticed a bright white light high up in the sky over the township.

It was travelling parallel to them as they drove to Port Victoria in a south-westerly direction.

Mr Wyatt said: "We watched it for a distance of about nine miles, when it suddenly made a half-circle turn in front of us.

"Came down"

"It came down at a very slight angle toward us at a very fast rate.

"It got larger and larger, and changed in colour from bright white to orange-red.

"Although it is hard to judge height of a night, I would say it was about a quarter of a mile above us.

"I reckon it was about 200 to 300 yards away from us, and still travelling parallel to us.

"MERCURY" Hobart, Tas. 2/12/68

Grey's 'top' UFO appears again

ADELAIDE. — A mysterious A-top-shaped object which has "buzzed" two motorists near the cray fishing town of Grey, about 20 miles from Millicent, has been seen as far away as Mount Gambier.

The object, accompanied by a dazzling white light, terrified Mrs J. Harvey, of Grey, about a month ago

Driver says 'saucer' tracked him

KALGOORLIE, Today: Fremantle publican John Stevens was tracked for more than 20 miles by what he thinks was a flying saucer in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Mr Stevens, who was driving to Kalgoorlie for the annual race round, had the interior of his car lit up by weird light which he first noticed about 20 miles on the Perth side of Coolgardie soon after midnight.

The light first appeared through the rear window of his car.

There was no traffic near him and the glow mystified him so much that he stopped the car, a few hundred yards after the light first appeared.

The moment he got out of the car the light disappeared.

"I immediately got back in the car and went for my life," he said today. "As soon as I'd got started again the light came back on again right behind me.

"At first I thought it might be somebody on a

motor cycle trying to be funny, but when it came on the second time I was beginning to get very frightened and started going a lot faster. The light stayed with me all the time."

Mr Stevens said that the light was difficult to describe but it looked like two arms of light in a V-shape with a big central spotlight between them.

"I didn't believe in flying saucers before this, but I'm not too sure now. I'm going home in daylight and I think I'll back Orbit Commander at the races," he said.

"NEWS" Perth, W.A.

28/8/68

UFO 'dive-bombed' a driver

ADELAIDE. — A motor mechanic said yesterday that he had driven at 95 mph after he had been "dive-bombed" by a UFO.

He and a youth with him had been "scared stiff" and had reported the sighting to a policeman who later watched the UFO with them.

The mechanic is Mr J. A. W. Wyatt, 21, of Port Victoria, on Yorke Peninsula, about 100 miles from Adelaide.

He said he was returning home from Maitland, where he works, at about 9.40 p.m. on Tuesday with Christopher Bolton, 15.

On leaving Maitland they noticed a bright white light high over the town.

It was travelling parallel to them as they drove south-west to Port Victoria.

Mr Wyatt said: "We watched it for about nine miles, when it suddenly made a half-circle turn in front of us.

"SUN" Melbourne, Vic. 2/12/68

"It came down at a very slight angle toward us at a very fast rate. It got larger and larger and changed color from bright white to orange-red.

"Although it is hard to judge height at night, I would say it was about a quarter of a mile above us.

"I reckon it was about 200 to 300 yd. away, and still travelling parallel to us.

"As we rounded a bend three miles from Port Victoria it continued straight on and appeared to be rising."

Mr Wyatt said that when he got home he watched it through his father's binoculars, but could not distinguish any shape.

It disappeared and re-appeared so he and Christopher called Constable D. Guerin, who watched it with them.

Mr Wyatt said it was circular in shape, but was not making any noise. It had been a clear night.

Constable Guerin said that, when he saw the light it would have been about four miles away.

We could assess this because we have been living near the aerodrome for some fifteen years and have seen many aircraft. We can, with confidence, safely say that it was not any known aircraft.

Although it was a clear night it was reasonably dark and a good view of the shape was not possible but we did observe that it had at least three lights - two were pale yellow in colouring and one was red. The red light was situated in the middle of the yellow ones and slightly below centre.

The object disappeared behind some houses.

Sighting No.6.

Date: November 11th, 1968.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Site: Young in New South Wales.

Sighting investigated by the Harden
Sightings Officer.

On the evening of 11th November Mr. Stan Rheema, a council electrician, walked out of the front door of his home in Yass St., Young. The sky was very overcast because it had recently rained. On looking skyward, Mr. Rheema noticed this bright light about the size of a street light. It was so obvious because it was changing colour from brilliant white to a bright red then back to white, culminating in an unusual green colour. The object seemed to be moving closer all the time.

Mr. Rheema then ran inside again and told his sister and brother about what he had witnessed and they also observed his sighting, only this time the object was starting to move away. Mr. Rheema then ran into the next-door home to get a local newspaper reporter to witness the object. All were just in time to see the light disappear at great speed into the distant sky.

Sighting No.7.

Date: June 17th, 1969.

Time: 8.52 p.m.

Site: Highett, Victoria.

Corner of Locinda and Clyde Streets.

I was driving my car in a west-
erly direction and just as I started

Continued Page 17.

THE SPACKMAN SIGHTING

THE SPACKMAN SIGHTING

Armed with binoculars, cameras etc. he set up nightly vigils between 10.30 p.m. and 3.00 a.m. After about eight unsuccessful excursions it dawned on him that his previous glimpses had been in the daytime, so he switched to Saturday afternoons. On the third Saturday it happened. At about 4.40 p.m. he, and his wife Betty, spotted it in the southwest at an estimated altitude of about 2,500 feet. It was hovering, with an apparent size slightly smaller than that of the moon. It started to move almost immediately and, in order to keep it in sight, they drove rapidly down a bush track until they came to a clearing. Peter took his first shot with a borrowed Polaroid camera loaded with colour film, photographing almost directly into the sun. In his excitement he made a hash of pulling out the film, accidentally exposing the next four frames. To make matters worse he placed the picture on the bonnet of the car, lit a cigarette and threw the match away. And where did the match land? Not only on the picture, but smack on the image of the craft almost obliterating it and, thereby, arousing suspicions in the minds of some sceptics. The UFO, which appeared to be a fairly flat disc shape with an outer rim similar to a craft photographed at Hallam in Victoria, had temporarily disappeared. So Peter ran out on to the road to have a better look, then back into the bush where his wife was waiting, then finally brought the car out on to the main road where they sat on the bonnet and decided to wait indefinitely.

They did not have to wait long.

The matter was subsequently investigated by the RAAF who borrowed the pictures, made copies and then returned the originals the next day. Peter said he was told that the RAAF was taking the matter seriously, had been unable to establish that the pictures were fakes and therefore assumed that they were genuine.

They have had no further word from the RAAF concerning the sighting. The RAAF investigating officer informed them, however, that there had been another witness, a lady named Dianne Martin who had seen them and the craft and who had subsequently been 'phoning newspapers regarding the affair. Peter said that radio station 6IX had also had six 'phone calls from people concerning the sighting.

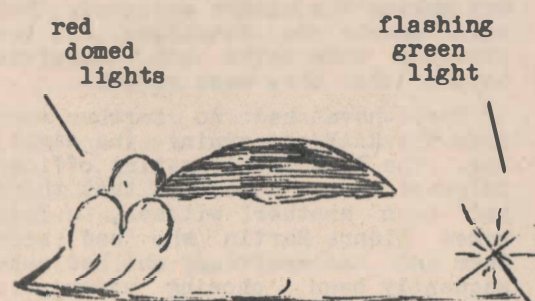
A photogrammetric analysis done for VUFORS tended to support Mr. Spackman's report.

Regarding the description of the craft, Mrs. Spackman said "it was about as big as our lounge-room". Peter said he could see portholes all the way around it and calculated that it could have had up to forty.

Continued Page 16.

she stopped outside a farmhouse but remained in the car. The object rose to a considerable height above the house and hovered there. Soon a car came along the main road and she dipped her headlights and followed this car into Mortlake. The UFO was not seen again by her. She said the object had appeared to be circular in shape with a dome on the top of it. She could not estimate the size of it as it was very dark and in view for a very short period.

The witness visited the doctor shortly after the sighting as she had become rather "neurotic". When we interviewed her three months later, she had been having treatment for two months for nerves. The doctor told her that two years before, a man in the district had visited him with a similar ailment after viewing an object near his home. Since our witness was a nurse, she analysed her feelings at the time of the sighting and she believes it was not just the sight of the object which caused her extreme distress but that it was possibly the beam of green light flashing at her or perhaps the force field surrounding the object.



Mortlake UFO.

There are many more cases such as these, some even more spectacular; but whether or not the reports are of a spectacular nature, the subject itself should make man ponder a few points - especially in the area of travel. Fantastic distances could be covered with, perhaps, little expense, effort and lapse of time.

Continued Page 15.

The shape of the main ship seemed to have the ability to change, not drastically, but a change from, say, spheroid to a slightly elongated form with the colour maintaining a constant dark grey to black.

However, the smaller craft had a constant cigar shape and were of a very dark colour. Their travel out and back had a peculiarity not associated with normal aircraft in that they appeared to travel out and come back without actually turning like a normal aeroplane would have to.

DEPARTED AT GREAT SPEED.

At 0950 G.M.T. the whole formation joined together as if at a single command, then departed at a tremendous speed. It did not disappear as, say, gas would but it departed in about three or four seconds, diminishing in size till out of sight.

The weather at the time of the sighting was fine, with no haze above 5,000 feet and about 2/8 alto stratus cloud to the south of us and the other aircraft.

NOTES ON UFOs:-

1. The distance from our aircraft of the UFOs would be impossible to gauge because the prerequisite to establishing distance is to know size and the size of these objects is unknown. However, for comparative size, the main ship compared with a Boeing 707 as seen from about ten miles away.
2. Immediately after the departure of the UFOs radio communications were restored.
3. Neither Walter nor myself had the presence of mind to check if any deviation existed in our magnetic compass or Automatic Direction Finding equipment whilst in the proximity of the UFOs.
4. The whole formation maintained the same distance and bearing from our aircraft for the entire duration of the sighting.

Captain Gardin and myself discussed the sighting at length during

Continued Page 16.

Book Review

A book by America's veteran UFO researchers, Jim and Coral Lorenzen, is always a keenly awaited event. Their latest book, 'UFOs OVER THE AMERICAS', typifies the attention to detail and conservative investigation which has always characterised the work of the founders of the oldest extant UFO organisation in the United States of America.

Many of the sightings cited by the Lorenzens have not heretofore been published and the network of South American representatives, painstakingly organised by APRO, ensures that the authors have access to information on most of the intriguing cases which have been reported from Brazil and neighbouring countries during recent years.

When one studies some of the cases referred to in the chapters entitled 'The Unbelievables' and 'The Flesh Crawlers', it is tempting to conclude that there is a dimension present in the American cases that is not manifest in Australian cases. But this discrepancy may also be explained as the result of reluctance on the part of the more phlegmatic Australian to report sightings which exhibit a strong element of the macabre or dreadful.

Several later chapters are devoted to discussing some aspects of the official attitude to UFOs, and the chapter entitled 'UFO and CIA' advances evidence to suggest that the 'secret government' may know more about UFOs than it is prepared to admit publicly. However, while it seems likely that APRO and other UFO groups have at one time or another been subjected to surveillance by intelligence organisations, the question of precisely how much UFO information is known by such agencies, and withheld from the public, is still obviously a highly debatable one.

The book concludes with an appendix containing much information useful to the researcher, including the complete Report of the Robertson Committee on UFOs - which met in 1955. ★ -Peter E. Norris.

Does it really matter where they come from? Yes! Possibly it does. It may have a bearing on their reason for being here.

Irrespective of these queries, the UFOs are here and they utilise a form of propulsion which, at this stage in our progress, is unknown to us. Perhaps when we learn to live in harmony with mankind we will have time to solve this yet another problem but a fascinating one.



Yes, we can identify them - they're UFOs.

They were not circular but were elongated and seemed to radiate outwards from the centre.

There was no light or sound coming from the craft. According to Mrs. Spackman the surface appeared to be silvery and metallic with a rough texture. They both received a very strong impression of colossal weight and power, almost suffocating, Mrs. Spackman said. It was observed to slow down and flip right over in the direction of flight. Acceleration was swift but not instantaneous according to Peter. He also had the impression that it was unmanned but could not explain why.

In a recent letter, dated 21st November, 1969, Peter says that subsequent stakeouts had proved worthless and they had not visited the area for two months. There had been no further sightings.

★ ★ ★

WHILE OFFICIALDOM SLUMBERS, THERE ARE AT LEAST SOME SCIENTISTS WHO BELIEVE IN THE REALITY OF UFOs AND ARE KEEN TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH AGAINST ALL ODDS.

A comment here, from the Queensland Bureau's bulletin, and attributed to Dr. James Bryant Conant, may be appropriate:

"Behold the turtle; he makes progress only when his neck is out".

• • •

From the TUCSON DAILY CITIZEN.

Monday, December 29th, 1969.

McDONALD BLASTS CONDON.

UA Physicist Protests Action To
Halt U.F.O. Talk.

Boston (UPI) - University of Arizona physicist James E. McDonald protested against an attempt to get Vice President Spiro Agnew to intervene in scientific discussions here on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

Continued Page 17.

and after the event and came to these conclusions as to whether the UFOs were

- (a) Balloons?
- (b) Gases?
- (c) Trick of Light?
- (d) Aircraft?

- a) If the sighting were balloons we considered it impossible to see these balloons from thirty miles. This would have been the distance covered by the aircraft from the first sighting to the disappearance.

The UFOs maintained the same distance throughout whereas a free balloon would have a closure rate with us of 195 knots (our true airspeed) and would have at least passed us.

- b) The same argument as above.
- c) If it were a trick of light, the colour of the UFOs should have changed at some time or another because the sun had had a considerable traverse, coupled with our westward travel during this time. Also due to the last two facts, any refracted light would have changed form drastically whereas the UFOs had very little change of shape or colour.
- d) We conclude that the UFOs were in fact aircraft with the solidity of aircraft, except perhaps for the fact of the ability of the larger UFO to split and change shape slightly.

• • •

For the above report we thank
Dr. Paul Zeck.

★ ★ ★

Back Issues available

We have, for sale, a few copies of editions nos. 6, 7 and 8 of the magazine. These three editions are the last three issues of THE REVIEW prior to this current edition. The back issues are available at the cost of 45 cents (Aust.) per copy, post paid.

to do a right hand turn to proceed north, a very short bright flash of white light caught my eye from the top of the side window. I thought it could have been a street lighting fault but on turning the corner I glanced back and there was no street light there. As the flash had definitely come from high up, I stopped and looked up. At about 20° east south east from directly overhead I saw a pale grey shape, about five times longer than its width, rounded at each end. It was somewhat fuzzy in appearance. There were no discernable markings and no light. The sky was perfectly clear and cloudless and there was no moon.

The shape travelled in a perfect arc in a south east south direction at a uniform rate. It became more and more indistinct to see as it came lower in the sky due, mainly, to the glare of nearby street lights. It took a little less than half a minute to traverse the half arc of the sky. I cannot estimate any height. My daughter Christine, aged fourteen years, was with me in the car. She had not seen any flash but watched the grey shape proceed across the sky.

To check against any mistake about the flash, I drove back over my original route. There was definitely no street light which could have given this flash.

CORRELATING OF SIGHTINGS.

I have described the method of investigating and of evaluating the sightings. I have listed a few of the sightings that have occurred during 1968 and 1969. This, of course, is not the finish of the evaluation. The information from all the reports received is then correlated to try to obtain some pattern that may eventually show something that can positively identify the "Whys and Wherefores" of the UFO phenomena.

I will briefly describe for you some of the other aspects that go on behind the scenes. They are: the correlating of information and the use of this information to determine graphically the months of the year when UFO activity seems to be greatest (this graph appeared in the last issue of this magazine) and

whether the activity has any connection with the Planets and the plotting of sightings onto a map to see where the activity is greatest. If in Victoria, whether the activity is greatest in the town or country areas.

This work is carried out not only in this Society but in all other groups which believe the UFO to be a very real phenomena.

★ ★ ★

(Continued from page 16).

McDonald, a member of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics in Tucson, said he would "definitely protest" the attempt by Dr. E.U. Condon of the University of Colorado to convince Agnew to stop the UFO discussion.

A symposium on UFOs took place Saturday as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual conference, despite Condon's appeal to Agnew to help keep "such nonsense" off the program.

Condon, whose 3-man committee produced the massive report advising Air Force to drop its UFO investigations, said it would dignify UFOs to discuss them at the scientific gathering.

However, Agnew failed to act and the symposium proceeded.

McDonald, in a statement telephoned from Washington, said Condon's actions were "scientifically shocking and unprecedented".

"It seems to me a transparent effort to suppress scientific criticism of the content and the conclusions of his own Air Force-sponsored UFO study", McDonald continued, "Condon deserves the strongest of scientific censure for this attempt to stop that symposium and I shall definitely protest via AAAS channels".

Condon, reached in Denver, said he was "totally surprised" by McDonald's objection to his action but declined further comment. ★

A LOOK AHEAD.

What can now be done by those few scientists like myself who have tried to examine, independantly of the Air Force and of the Condon Project, this long-puzzling problem of the Unidentified Flying Objects?

Had there not been the almost unqualified approval by the National Academy of Science (only Condon's proscription of reading of UFO books by school-children was omitted from the Academy panel's strong endorsement of the Report), there might be hope that science-oriented agencies like NASA, NSF, ONR, etc., would examine the Report, find it wanting, and move quickly to support new and more adequate studies. Curiously, Condon himself recommends something along these lines (see pp. 2-3 of Bantam edition); but that one positive point in his recommendations is lost under the weight of the heavily negative aspects of his other recommendations, so it is little wonder that almost no press commentary emphasized this one proviso Condon inserted. The Academy panel did note it, but only in a single, brief passage.

My own estimate is that absolutely no further general progress towards scientific clarification of the UFO problem will come until the inadequacies of the Condon Report are fully aired in as many ways as possible. I intend to devote all possible personal effort to that objective; and NICAP is in process of preparing an extended rebuttal report. So small a fraction of the scientific community is currently aware of the potential scientific importance of the UFO problem that this rebuttal will probably be slow in taking effect; but the Report seems so unrepresentative of good scientific work, so highly vulnerable to scientific criticism, that I believe its negative influence (except with respect to USAF decisions about Project Blue Book) will be quite short-lived.

The fact that an ad hoc UFO Subcommittee within the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, under the chairmanship of Dr. J.P. Kuettner, has just made recommendations that are, although

cautious and qualified, nearly opposite in tone to Condon's seems to offer real hope. AIAA is perhaps the ideal professional society to take a new, hard look at the UFO problem, and their Subcommittee's December (1968) statement could have a very salutary influence in neutralizing some of the unfortunate effects resulting from the Condon Report. Also, it is to be hoped that the House Committee on Science and Astronautics, which held a UFO Symposium in July 1968 may recognize the basis for continuing concern with the UFO problem and hold another more extensive session on this subject in the near future. RESA members who see merit in such a move could perform a useful service by communicating their thoughts on that point to the Chairman of that Congressional Committee.

In the long run, it will, I believe, be chiefly the persistence of unexplained UFO reports from reliable witnesses that will insure truly adequate scientific confrontation. An unprecedented opportunity to lead that confrontation was given to Dr. Condon, and it has been almost completely wasted by producing a setback, not a step forward. The real nature of the UFO evidence, only superficially examined by the Condon Project, continues to impress me and a few others as implying a problem of extraordinarily important scientific content with the most profound implications in many areas, scientific and otherwise. It is a global problem, since UFO reports are by no means a uniquely American problem, so perhaps some breakthrough may come from scientists abroad. The possibility that the UFO phenomena are, in some sense, related to extraterrestrial surveillance by some technology far higher than ours is a possibility that I continue to take seriously. Notwithstanding many obvious difficulties with the extraterrestrial hypothesis, the full range of UFO evidence (so poorly known to most scientists to date) seems to me to be very hard to explain in any other terms (except some even more bizarre). Even a bare possibility that this hypothesis could be

Continued Page 20.

"The Directorate of Air Force Intelligence, RAAF, made official explanation early in 1961: 'The phenomena was the result of the moonrise associated with meteorological conditions at the time of the sighting. On 4th October, 1960, moonrise (full quarter) at Cressy would have been visible shortly after 1800 hours and in an ESE direction. The objects apparently seen were near the sky-line in an easterly direction. The presence of scud type clouds, moving in varying directions due to turbulence in and around the rain squall near which the objects were sighted, and the position of the moon or its reflections, produced the impression of flying objects'".

"Such an 'explanation' has a curiously familiar ring to anyone who has studied large numbers of USAF 'explanations' of UFO sightings. One can quickly establish that the moon was full on the date of the Cressy sighting and that it would have risen not in the ESE but a few degrees north of east. And, still worse for the official explanation, there was not only a dense rain storm obscuring all the eastern sky as seen from the Cressy rectory, but the highest mountain range of Tasmania lay behind those dense clouds to further obscure the just-risen full moon. (Ben Lomond, summit 6,160 feet, lies to ENE of Cressy, and the ridges extend off to south and north from that summit point)".

"From my own viewpoint, as one interested in atmospheric optics and in unusual refractive and reflective anomalies, the official suggestion that 'scud' subject to turbulent motions could (had the moon not been wholly obscured by rain and mountain) be optically distorted into anything remotely resembling the phenomena reported by the Brownings seems entirely out of question. (Because USAF explanations have many times asserted, as has also Dr. D.H. Menzel in his writings on UFOs, that the sun and the moon can be 'reflected' off sides or tops of clouds, it may be well to state that nothing in decades of meteorological optical observations supports such a notion, save for the phenomenon of the 'undersun', which involves

specular reflection off tabular ice crystals falling in completely non-turbulent air, and visible only from an aircraft or elevated vantage point. Sun and moon do not yield anything like distinct images by reflection off the walls of clouds; all UFO explanations invoking such optical absurdities are unreasonable. It might be added that Menzel has repeatedly erred in referring to sundogs, i.e., parhelia, as resulting from 'reflection', since that familiar optical effect is caused by ice-crystal refraction)".

"In asserting such a meteorological explanation as was issued by the RAAF intelligence office, little evidence of scientific knowledge was exhibited".

The RAAF is known to be stressing the Condon conclusions when responding to enquiries concerning the existence of UFOs. These official letters, however, will not mention such cases as the above or refer to the many contradictions throughout the Condon Report.

In addition to these clearly self-revealing contradictions are the outright acts of deception such as enlisting the aid of the Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, to write to the foreign embassies requesting information on government investigations abroad. The contents of the letter can be found on pages 556 and 557 of the Condon Report. In this letter it is stated that the University of Colorado was not interested in studies made by private UFO groups. Such statements are, no doubt, digested as facts by people who have never studied the UFO problem.

Members of the Condon Committee know all about the exerted efforts to retain the co-operation of NICAP, the largest private research group in the world. They know, also, about letters written to this Society requesting information on both current and past UFO reports, and of a request to this writer to visit the project to give examples of key cases in Australia. Both Dr. Condon and his Committee know that travelling expenses were paid in order to acquire this information.

Continued Page 20.

ation. Is it any wonder that some project members rebelled when faced with such documented lies?

There are indications that Dr. Condon is disturbed because an ever-increasing number of people are checking further than his conclusions and recommendations. On 27th December, 1969, the American Association for the Advancement of Science held a symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects. Although Dr. Condon was invited to attend, he responded with alarm and tried to have the symposium cancelled. After failing to secure the desired result by writing to several AAAS officials he made one last desperate, unsuccessful effort by appealing to the Vice President of the United States.

REJECTION BY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

The Victorian Education Department has also rejected the Condon advice. After viewing, with amusement, his recommendations that school children be discouraged from study of the UFO subject, the Department responded with three articles in educational publications, recommending that teachers give credit for UFO studies.

Dr. Allen Hynek, Chief Civilian Consultant for the US Air Force for twenty years, stated in his book review in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, April 1969, that the Condon Report failed to explain as many UFOs as the Air Force. Soon afterwards, Dr. Hynek was dismissed! Officialdom has no use for an awakening scientist. The CIA prefers the Menzelian Kooks! There is now a grave need for a fresh batch of Condonian Kooks!

Project Blue Book has been officially and loudly closed. What will be the name of the next project, which will be quietly opened, and what ingredients will be used in the whitewash to camouflage the forthcoming investigations?

Meanwhile, the global network of ufologists finds it mere child's-play to pick the Condon Report to bits and pieces.

Letters to the Editor

(Letters to the Editor, with writer's name and address, should go to:- Australian Flying Saucer Review, P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Victoria, 3189, Australia. Unless otherwise specified, all comments will be considered for publication).

Dear Sir,

On page 15 of your number 8 issue is a reprint of a Daily News report of a UFO seen in the sky over Rockingham. I personally interviewed three of the lads concerned in this sighting some days after it took place, and they told me they were misreported in the paper. The light in the sky was flickering off and on, but this was not in response to their torch, which gave only a very feeble light, which they felt sure could not even have been seen from a short distance.

Dr. Paul Zeck,
Perth, W.A.

A DISSENTING VIEW OF THE CONDON REPORT (from page 18).

correct would call for the most determined effort of scientists throughout the world to elucidate as quickly as possible all aspects of the UFO problem. I would have to summarize my more than two years of study of the matter by saying that I currently see that as more than a bare possibility; to date, I find it hard to conceive of any reasonable alternative to that seemingly unreasonable hypothesis.

Stop Press!

Hamilton "Spectator" - 15th January, 1970.

A Dartmoor (Victoria) farmer discovered on his farm property, a 40-yard strip, 4 feet wide, mown to within a foot of the ground in the middle of some ferns near the Glenelg River.

How did the strip get there? Who could have mown it?

.....

Heywood (Vic.) "Express" - 27th February, 1970.

The farmer, Mr. Tommy Melbourne, did not believe in Flying Saucers until they started using his farm as a "runway". He has since found another "launching-pad" on his property and, since his first discovery, there have been a number of reported unidentified flying objects in the Heywood Cashmore areas.

This story will be covered more fully in the next edition of the magazine.

.....

Moe "Advocate" - 5th March, 1970.

Three Newborough girls were awe-stricken just before 10 o'clock last night, when they saw an object like a huge plate and low down in the sky.

About the size of six full moons, greyish in color, but with large luminous areas, the object seemed to be a half a mile away at first and was spinning and moving.

.....

Geelong "Advertiser" - 13th March, 1970.

Reports were received of a bright red light which appeared to perform manoeuvres across the city sky and travelled from the south-west to the north-east horizon. Ten minutes later it came back from the north, towards the Southern Cross, made a "U" turn, and headed north again. After that, it turned left low in the sky and headed west, then north.

On all the turns the object was distinctly flashing in contrast to the constant red color observed when it was moving in line.

.....



**This society would appreciate readers'
reports on U.F.O.s. Please forward to
P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Victoria, 3189,
Australia.**
